

UTC REPORT

Hong Kong Urban Thinkers Campus

Who has a right to Asia's World City?

A. Introduction (200 words)

Describe the meeting's context and process

The Urban Thinker Campus (UTC) was organized by Designing Hong Kong, Faculty of Social Science, the Urban Studies Programme, the Master of Urban Design Programme and the Institute of Future Cities at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to discuss who has a right to the city of Hong Kong.

The objectives of the UTC were to better understand Hong Kong's challenges and the lessons for global urban development. The Umbrella Movement – took hold of Hong Kong's streets for three months in 2014. It brought to the fore the growing socio-spatial disparity. It also put the spot light on a narrowing job base, a lack of entrepreneurial opportunities, and a near 20 year freeze on starting salaries, unaffordable housing, a loss of street frontage for small businesses, and hegemony over land resources by the few property developers. The situation for Hong Kong is complicated by the ongoing integration with the Mainland.

The discussion was organized along a number of themes, including: World city vs. Great city; Mainland integration; Public space in a dense city; Speculative vs. affordable housing; and Land hegemony. The solid discussions and consensus allowed participants to critically review the adequacy of *The City we Need* document.

B. Partners/participants (200 words)

--Number of participants at meeting

--Constituent groups represented

-- Key stakeholders present

Representatives from organizers' (5) and partners' (14) institutions had joined our event, and we also had guests from UN Habitat and related organizations (please see attached participation list). About 180 people have participated in the event, including 131 participants coming from different backgrounds, such as architects, planners, university professors, green groups, youth groups and students. They were separated into five urban labs with two moderators in each lab. The variety of moderators and participants represented different views and perspectives in the community. The lists of organizers, partners and moderators are shown under "Annexes" below. We also have student helpers who actively helped and participated the event.

C. Key outcomes (300 words)

Describe the main outcomes of the discussions

Main outcomes of the discussions:

- Thorough discussions of the five thematic areas central to the future development of Hong Kong
 - World city vs. great city: Vision of a healthy and livable city where people are aware of biodiversity, the importance of producing less waste, adopt low carbon living style, pursue sustainability, less self-centred and willing to recreate the village feeling, treating one another with respect and responsibility. The city should have affordable housing, mixed urban diversity and zones for urban experimentation.
 - Mainland integration: Hong Kong and China are both learning to make the integration successful. The benefits and barriers for Hong Kong to integrate with China and Chinese immigrants integrating into Hong Kong society were discussed and some solutions suggested.
 - Speculative vs. affordable housing: As land proceeds is an important source of revenue for the government and housing in Hong Kong is available to outside investors, housing prices are bound to be high. The questions are how to provide affordable housing and how to build sustainable communities.
 - Public space in a dense city: Public spaces in Hong Kong include streets/roads, parks etc. but there has not been integrated/holistic views on these often overregulated spaces. People are yearning for diversified walkable, bikable and comfortable public spaces in the city!
 - Land hegemony: The colonial legacy of de-historising and de-politicising education, the lack of information in the public domain, government-private sector collusion have all contributed to the hegemonic thoughts that there is scarcity of land in Hong Kong.
- Proposed changes to the City We Need principles and roadmap (see attached file sent separately)
- 100+ people from all walks of life who have pledged to join future discussions about Hong Kong's future

D. Key recommendations (500 words)

Highlight actionable and concrete recommendations including how and why the changes or additions are being recommended (e.g. strategic feasibility) and links to case studies.

- World city vs. great city:
 - Update policy and laws for enforcement and monetary rewards to incentivize good practices
 - Transparency of decisions
 - Green infrastructure such as recycling facilities and cycling tracks
 - Better use of existing resources and invest in renewables
 - Through curriculum changes, educate the general public for behavioural changes
 - Use ICT to engage and empower the general public
 - Embrace experimental urbanism through creating space prototypes
 - Encourage self-sufficiency

- Encourage the cultivation of mutual respect among citizens
- Mainland integration:
 - A need to develop some kind of consensus in Hong Kong
 - Urban planning in Hong Kong should have a regional perspective
 - People in Hong Kong need to learn how things work in China and vice versa
- Speculative vs. affordable housing:
 - Building more government subsidized housing
 - Facilitate the construction of private housing
 - Planning and design to integrate old and new developments
- Public space in a dense city:
 - Design public space with people's need in mind
 - Provide a variety and diversity of public open space
 - Provide car free environments for pedestrians and cyclists
 - More power to local communities
 - Address work/life balance
 - Provide information on public space for the general public
 - Identify and account for the long term needs of different demographic groups
 - Address the future of homeless people
- Land hegemony:
 - ICT to facilitate circulation of information and small-scale cooperative development
 - Encourage civil servants to learn about the latest socio-political conditions
 - Democratise land use planning
 - Introduction of the concept of joint-ownership
 - More transparency on property stakeholders
 - Widen the tax base
 - Diversify the economy
 - Educate the general public the genesis of today's problems

E. Key actors (200 words)

Explain the proposed actions and identify the key actors implicated

Everyone needs to be involved in order to achieve the stated suggestions above:

- Government: update laws, enforcement, managing public finance to incentivise, educate the general public and engage the communities using ICT, increasing flat size, pedestrian Central areas, developing comprehensive cycling tracks, 'public servants on public transport', engage the public in making decisions, empowering district councils, develop prototypes for urban experiments, use competition policy to break monopoly, set up democratic planning mechanisms at different geographical levels
- Private sector: investing in urban green infrastructure, urban regeneration and ICT, build larger flats
- NGOs: CUHK to facilitate future dialogues
- Individuals: needs to work harder in terms of learning, learn more about China and integrate better with mainland Chinese, behavioural changes to be aware of biodiversity, respect one another, express views and participate in planning and land development issues

F. Matrix of linkages (matrix +100 words)

Explain the linkages between new recommendations and existing principles. Clearly identify the proposals and impact on specific principles diagrammatically and in text.

We have tried to incorporate our comments through modifying/editing the principles and roadmap. Please refer to the edited version.

G. Outstanding issues (50-100 words)

Outline any other issues or questions that remain and propose options on how to consider them – e.g. through ongoing research

Hong Kong has a long way to go to achieve *The City We Need*. CUHK will endeavour to facilitate the continuation of the dialogue.

H. Annexes

- Listing and brief explanation of any urban solutions discussed

Please refer to section D above.

- The Campus programme (timing and sessions held)

09:30 am - 10:00 am	Registration	-
10:00 am - 10:20 am	<i>Urban Labs: Introduction</i>	Paul Zimmerman
10:20 am - 10:40 am	<i>Urban Labs: The Right to the City & Information Booklet</i>	Mee Kam Ng
10:40 am - 11:00 am	<i>Urban Labs: The Good Lab: Experience Sharing</i>	Ada Wong
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Coffee	-
11:30 am - 01:00 pm	Urban Thinkers Sessions 1 - <i>Brainstorming</i> (Where are we now and where do we want to be?)	Moderators & everyone
01:00 pm - 02:00 pm	Lunch	-
02:00 pm - 03:15 pm	Urban Thinkers Sessions 2 (How to get there? And actionable and concrete recommendations to <i>The City We Need</i> document.)	Moderators & everyone
03:15 pm - 04:00 pm	Report back.	Moderators & everyone

- A summary of each session (400 words maximum): plenary sessions, Urban Thinkers sessions,

Urban Labs, Constituent Group sessions, Media sessions, others

- Urban Labs:
 - Introduction to brief participants the background of UTC, *The City We Need* document and the rundown of the full day events
 - A briefing on the concept of the Right to the City and the information booklet prepared by the UTC to facilitate discussions (see attached)
 - A sharing by 'The Good Lab', a lively, experimental, creative co-shared space for startup enterprises, mostly social enterprises
- Urban Thinkers Sessions (Five parallel sessions):
 - Identifying key issues through brainstorming and sharing:
 - Where are we now? Existing issues related to the particular theme
 - Where do we want to be? Shared vision and goal
 - How to get there? Concrete measure to tackle the issue to achieve the shared vision and goal
 - Revisit the *City We Need* principles and roadmaps and check which principle or point under Roadmap need to be changed in order to realise the suggested measures to achieve their shared vision
- Urban Thinkers Session (Reporting by representatives in each group)
 - Reporting back on the summary of discussions
 - Concrete recommendations for changes in the *City We Need* document
- Wrapping up by the organisers

- Links and references

Website: <http://www.arch.cuhk.edu.hk/urbandesign/urbanthinkers2015.html>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/utccuhk

Newspaper articles:

1. 'Urban Thinkers Campus', In Design Live Hong Kong

<http://www.indesignlive.hk/articles/in-review/urban-thinkers-campus>

2. "'Obliged to cooperate": What Hong Kong's experience offers Habitat III', Citiscope

<http://citiscope.org/habitatIII/news/2015/09/obliged-cooperate-what-hong-kongs-experience-offers-habitat-iii>

3. "'City changers"' convene at Chinese University', Hong Kong Free Press

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2015/09/01/city-changers-convene-at-chinese-university/>

Video links:

Youtube

Promotional: https://youtu.be/mtIh_ov0Ii4

Full version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgIScmaTcI4&list=PLsxSJn_VxANEAhCaBU3Rav0et6ady7acj

Tudou

Promotional: <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/k11GMmJGwH0/>

Full version: <http://www.tudou.com/listplay/CDi04fXcDys.html>

Douban link: <http://site.douban.com/209228/widget/notes/13176390/note/519935224/>

Weibo link: http://www.weibo.com/3587118424/CEj2Idore?type=comment#_rnd1444377577357

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/hongkongzhiminginstitute/posts/914936388599247>

- Complete list of participants (see attached excel file)

a. List of organizers:

1. The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2. Faculty of Social Science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
3. Designing Hong Kong
4. Institute of Future Cities at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
5. School of Architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
6. Geography Resource Management at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
7. Urban Studies Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
8. Master of Science in Urban Design at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

b. List of partners:

1. Hong Kong Institute of Planners
2. The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
3. Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
4. Centre for architecture and Urbanism
5. Central & Western Concern Group
6. Civic Exchange
7. Hong Kong Public Space Initiative
8. WECONS
9. Make a Difference
10. Asia-Pacific Housing Forum
11. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
12. HKCSS – HSBC Social Enterprise Business Centre
13. ACT Social Awareness Network
14. Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies

c. List of moderators:

Urban Lab	Affiliation	Moderators
World City vs. Great City	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Mee Kam Ng
	Make a Difference	Ada Wong
Mainland Integration	Hong Kong Institute of Planners	Eunice Mak
	Designing Hong Kong	Paul Zimmermen
Public Space in a Dense City	Hong Kong Public Space	Kenneth Chan

	Initiative	
	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hendrik Tieben
Speculative Vs. Affordable Housing	Master Plan Consultancy	Ian Brownlee
	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Edward Yiu
Land Hegemony	Liber Research Community	Kim Ching Chan
	The University of Hong Kong	Cecilia Chu